

**Iowa Telecommunications & Technology Commission
Grimes State Office Building, 1st Floor
400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319**

FINAL

May 15, 2014

To ensure the most efficient use of State resources, the May 15, 2014 ITTC meeting was held via video conference pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8. A video conference also ensured more Commissioners were able to participate in the meeting and reduced the risk of delays caused by weather or other impediments to travel. The meeting was accessible to members of the public through attendance at the Grimes State Office Building.

Commissioners Present

Richard Bruner, Chair (on-site)
Timothy Lapointe, Member (via video conference)
Kelly Dolan Lange, Member (on-site)

Iowa Communications Network Staff Present:

Ric Lumbard, Acting Executive Director, Network Operations and Engineering Director
Mark Johnson, Administration Director
Philip Groner, Business Services Manager
David Marley, Network Operations and Engineering Manager
Deb Evans, Chief Financial Officer
Jontell Harris, Government Relations Director
Lori Larsen, Communications Director
Marcia Page, Executive Secretary
Jeannie Patterson, Technical Services Specialist
Karen Alessio, Secretary (Recorder/Minutes)

Guests:

Joe Coon, AEA 9 (via video conference)
Sean Cory, CenturyLink
Gina Miller, CenturyLink
Kelly Dial, CenturyLink

Call to Order

Chair Bruner called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. It was noted that a quorum of members was not present for the meeting. Commissioner Bruner introduced Kelly Dolan Lange as the newest member of the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC).

Old Business:

Network Managed Services Request for Proposal (RFP) Update – Mark Johnson

CenturyLink, Telcoden, Windstream, and FiberUtilities Group have submitted responses to the Network Managed Services RFP. Individual evaluations by the evaluation team should begin within the next 30 days. ICN will come to a consensus concerning the evaluations of bids received with any recommendations to be directed to Ric Lumbard as the Acting Executive Director. ICN will be moving fairly vigorously since a new contract will need to be in place by January 1, 2015.

Q: Commissioner Lapointe: Has ICN worked with these vendors in the past?

A: Mark Johnson: Yes, ICN has worked with all four vendors in the past.

Q: Commissioner Bruner: Please provide a brief description of each vendor.

A: Rick Lumbard: The four vendors have had existing contracts in various capacities within the ICN. Telcoden conducted fiber installation for the ICN during the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and also transported layering installation work. FiberUtilities Group provided consultation services with two major ICN projects: the actual sale/ lease process and also provided consultation services for the BTOP grant which was successfully deployed. CenturyLink has been a long-standing partner with the ICN and is considered significant in terms of a Public/Private Partnership. ICN has numerous contracts for Telecommunication services with CenturyLink. Windstream currently has an existing contract that expires

at the end of this calendar year. Windstream has experienced several iterations, although they are not the original vendor, they are the existing incumbent vendor. Ric is pleased that all four of the vendors are capable of bringing viable options to discuss.

FirstNet Update - Ric Lombard

The FirstNet opportunity for the State of Iowa is a significant undertaking that addresses the ideal critical infrastructure in the state as it relates to interoperability of first responders, emergency response, and all individuals who are responsible for responding to disaster and crises. FirstNet is a Federal initiative that requires each state to be responsible for developing a FirstNet response. Each state is responsible for their own consultation and Iowa has begun the process. Ric is unsure as to how long the process will take. The state consultation is very comprehensive and the State of Iowa has a long process to undergo. Numerous agencies are involved in this process and ICN is watching the activity very closely. This process could take anywhere from a few months to several months. However, since Iowa has had a lot of experience with the Telecommunication Industry, the process may not take as long as other states.

New Business:

Budget Review - Deb Evans

The budget is completed and after review, adjustments need to be made. The Finance department and management are considering how to reorganize the budget. The Commission will be receiving a copy of the budget within the next couple of weeks after the changes have been made. Refocusing future projects that ICN will be completing and making different expectations will help to balance the budget.

Legislative Update - Mark Johnson

ICN's received \$2.2 million dollars for Infrastructure Appropriations. About \$1.1 million of the appropriation is divided for State Agency Communications (SAC) for general services to provide communications unrelated to the Network. The other half of the appropriation is used as the required state appropriated investment that needs to be made for ICN as a common carrier to qualify for the E-Rate funding that allows ICN to receive discounts for Educational and Healthcare users. That appropriation was included in the Infrastructure Bill. Mark is not anticipating any issues with the Governor not signing that bill. There is also language included in the bill that will allow ICN to exceed the current statutory contracting cap for purposes of the Network Management Services (RFP). There is language in the ICN statute that limits the amount of a contract that ICN can enter into before ICN goes to the Legislature to solicit approval. The contract increased to about \$2 million dollars a few years ago and currently the contract cap is slightly over \$2.1 million dollars. ICN did go to the Legislature to request approval to enter into the contract since it will exceed the cap. The language was included in the Infrastructure Bill and it is anticipated that it will be approved so ICN can move forward with any contract. The RFP process does allow the ICN to potentially have up to two vendors.

Q&A Discussion

Commissioner Bruner: Please give an update on *Connect Every Iowan*.

A: Mark Johnson: There were two different versions of the *Connect Every Iowan* bill, the Senate and House each having their own version. The ICN piece, which started in the Governor's Bill, was removed so the last versions of that legislation primarily included tax incentives for the private sector in terms of build out as well as funding for internships. Cell tower sighting language was included in the House version but was removed. Active discussions took place between the wireless carriers and the local Government entities that usually regulate the sighting of the towers. Being fairly vigorous at the end, it is not known if they came to an agreement. The bill came up in the House and failed.

Q: Commissioner Bruner: Please provide a sense as to which direction this may go.

A: Mark Johnson: Currently, there have not been any discussions with the Governor's Office in terms of what they may be planning. Presuming there will be a bill next session, the Legislature and lobbyists are interested in doing something, it is a matter of working through the details. There is concern as to how the bill is structured and what the best public policy would be to move the issue forward. There are both Senators and Representatives who are interested in the issue, but it is a matter of what the bill looks like at the end of the process. At the end of the session, the issue of Public Safety Communications arose relating to ICN's ability to provide connectivity between the local Emergency Providers and the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) because it is not possible to provide communication between them. There

was some discussion and language was drafted, but not offered. However, there are several Legislators who are still interested in having that discussion. Mark is anticipating that new legislation will be coming within the next year.

Ric Lombard: Strategic Plan Review/Organizational Changes:

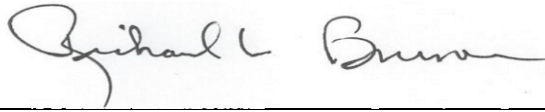
After a season of change and challenge, the ICN is at an important pivotal point and believes the leadership structure is sound. A competent leadership team serves over all the areas of Operations: Engineering, Finance, Contracting and Business Services. ICN is recalibrating to make certain that all the organizational structures and vision that is needed for each of those areas are in place and the leadership structure and strategic plan is able to manifest that in the state over time. ICN is taking a period of time beginning immediately until July 1, 2014 to refresh the vision in each of the areas to make certain that ICN has a solid oversight track that can deliver to the State of Iowa over the next several years. The Strategic Plan was recently presented to the Governor of Iowa, from the core aspect that Broadband matters in the state of Iowa. ICN reinforced the Governor's request by asking how a State Network can deliver Broadband where it counts. ICN's existing customers: Government, Healthcare, Education and Public Safety, matter to the ICN and we are aggressively pursuing ways to improve broadband accessibility in our existing customer sectors.

- Pages 12 and 13 of the document labeled *Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017* were discussed related to the continued development of significant Broadband availability through Public, Private Partnerships. By forging agreements, legislation and technological opportunities will encourage and develop significant Broadband opportunity within the State of Iowa. This does not mean that ICN has to provide all services, but we will be part of the voice that states Broadband matters in the state of Iowa. ICN will find aggressive, appropriate ways to encourage Broadband pervasiveness in the state. The Governor's initial desire is to *Connect Every Iowan* and ICN is part of that within our customer base. While assisting the offices of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and moving bandwidth for the Executive Branch, how can the ICN assist the Judicial Branch with their process of reliability and sustainability? How can the ICN take Homeland Security and the 911 services and make it the best by making certain that it is Public Safety grade stability in those processes? These are a few questions the ICN is asking.
- FirstNet has the potential of being larger than the BTOP and potentially reach farther than the ICN. FirstNet has the capability to reach into Public Safety, Homeland Security, as well as the Department of Public Safety, through wireless and cellular. ICN's reputation is federally solid to complete in high caliber operations. ICN has history and has developed contracts and processes. ICN's work existing into the private sector is strong in a significant way.
- Partnership and Collaboration with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Senate File (SF) 396. Specifically for the Executive Branch, the Office of CIO began to manage all Information Technology (IT) Services, and defined all IT services. Collaboration and assistance is essential in the integration of the Executive Branch agencies into and through the OCIO. We deliver that connectivity directly to those agencies. The ICN is committed to the integration tasks as determined by the OCIO. The Governor wanted to make certain that the ICN and the office of the OCIO are collaborative through this process.
- Continue the establishment and relational development required for significant Public/Private Partnerships with the telecommunications Private Sector. ICN wants to build partnerships and for ICN's success to be the Private Sector's success by looking into areas of major voice, data and video services then asking how can the ICN move past the vendor relationship and develop partnerships that strengthen the Private Sector. This has been a process for the ICN from the beginning, that being the reason for renewing the contract. ICN is considering aspects to our services that are too expensive for us to implement ourselves. Can ICN strengthen partnerships that allow our cost basis to an Area Education Agency (AEA), hospital or educational institution to reduce, or can we increase margin viability by strengthening that partnership, taking some of the responsibility off of the ICN and transferring it to the Private Sector? ICN is not reacting to anything but instead looking into finding strength in the Public/Private Partnerships to grow and become stronger.

Adjournment

Commissioner Dolan Lange moved that the meeting be adjourned. The ITTC meeting adjourned at 11:17a.m.

ATTESTED TO:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Bruner", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Richard Bruner, Chair, Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission